

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 069649
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:DAKORN/HLK
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
NSC - WQUANDT
NEA - MR. BRUBECK
NEA - MR. ATHERTON
S/S- FWISNER

-----035134 180022Z /61

O 172353Z MAR 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 069649

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO KING HUSSEIN

REF: AMMAN 2453

1. PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER TO KING HUSSEIN.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

YOUR MAJESTY:

I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST AND CARE YOUR MESSAGE OF
MARCH 14. IT WAS HELPFUL TO HAVE YOUR THOUGHTS IN ADVANCE

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OF MY MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN.

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR GOOD WISHES FOR THE SUCCESS OF
THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES TO BRING
ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT,
AND AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO SET OUT
YOUR VIEWS FOR ME IN DETAIL. EACH DAY'S EVENTS BRING

FURTHER PROOF -- IF ANY WERE NEEDED -- OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING QUICKLY TO END THE CONFLICT.

AS YOU POINT OUT, JORDAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE QUEST FOR PEACE. IT IS YOUR MAJESTY'S COURAGE AND FORESIGHT OVER THE YEARS IN PROVIDING LEADERSHIP TOWARD PEACE AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE GREAT RISKS FOR IT THAT WON THE ADMIRATION OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PROCESS WHICH WE HAVE BEGUN WILL LEAD TO BROADER NEGOTIATIONS WHICH JORDAN WILL BE ABLE TO JOIN. IT IS OUR VIEW, YOUR MAJESTY, THAT THE BEST WAY OF ARRIVING AT A SATISFACTORY FINAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA IS THROUGH AN INTERIM ARRANGEMENT OF LIMITED DURATION DURING WHICH THE INHABITANTS OF THOSE AREAS WILL BE ENABLED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. KNOWING THE STRENGTH OF THE BONDS BETWEEN THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AND THE WEST BANK, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR VIEW THAT FINAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE FOR THE RESTORATION OF TIES BETWEEN THE TWO, AND FOR THE INCLUSION OF GAZA IN THIS FRAMEWORK AS WELL.

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I AGREE, OF COURSE, THAT BOTH WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE ARE GOALS OF THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARE PRINCIPLES OF UN RESOLUTION 242 ON WHICH NEGOTIATION MUST BE BASED. THE UNITED STATES HAS, LIKEWISE, TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE MUST PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. I BELIEVE WE CAN AGREE THAT THE APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES IN DETAIL IS, OF COURSE, TO BE WORKED OUT IN NEGOTIATION.

I WELL UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS FOR JORDAN IN JOINING THE NEGOTIATIONS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ITS UTMOST TO ASSURE THAT THEY LEAD TO A JUST AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT, AND THAT JORDAN'S INTERESTS ARE FULLY TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. I HAVE PERSONALLY COMMITTED MYSELF TO SEEING THE CURRENT PEACE EFFORT THROUGH TO A CONCLUSION. THIS COMMITMENT REFLECTS THE FACT THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS VITAL TO THE INTERESTS AND THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES.

BEFORE I CLOSE LET ME SAY A WORD ABOUT THE TRAGIC EVENTS
THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN RECENT DAYS.
THE TERRORIST ATTACK INSIDE ISRAEL, AND ISRAEL'S

MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH LEBANON, ARE OF DEEP CONCERN
TO THE UNITED STATES.

WE DEPLORE, AS WE HAVE SAID, THIS PATTERN OF VIOLENCE
THAT TAKES INNOCENT CIVILIAN LIVES. WE HAVE MADE
CLEAR THAT WE EXPECT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN
LEBANON. BUT WE ARE CONVINCED, ALSO, THAT SOUTHERN
LEBANON MUST NO LONGER BE A BATTLEGROUND OF NON-
LEBANESE FORCES, NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE ISRAEL SECURITY
AGAINST CROSS-BORDER ATTACKS, BUT EQUALLY TO RESTORE
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TO LEBANON CONTROL AND SOVEREIGNTY OVER ITS OWN
TERRITORY.

WE ARE CURRENTLY CONSIDERING MOVES WHICH WE HOPE WILL
STABILIZE THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THROUGH
THE STRENGTHENING OF THE UN PRESENCE IN THAT AREA,
AND I HOPE THAT JORDAN WILL LEND ITS SUPPORT TO OUR
EFFORTS. BUT DIFFICULT AND INVOLVED AS THIS
PARTICULAR PROBLEM MAY BE, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT
WE SHALL NOT ALLOW IT TO DISTRACT US FROM OUR MAJOR
GOAL OF MOVING FORWARD TO NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT
ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT.

I WANT TO THANK YOUR MAJESTY AGAIN FOR WRITING. IT IS
ESSENTIAL THAT WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER FULLY AND
THEREFORE THAT WE STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH. OUR GREATEST
COMMON TASK -- THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE -- LIES AHEAD
OF US. IF OUR TWO COUNTRIES WORK TOGETHER I AM
CONFIDENT THAT WE SHALL SUCCEED.

WITH VERY BEST PERSONAL GOOD WISHES,

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

END QUOTE.

3. IF, IN DELIVERING ABOVE, YOU HAVE OCCASION TO
DISCUSS FURTHER THE SOUTH LEBANESE SITUATION, IN
ADDITION TO GUIDANCE PROVIDED SEPTEL,
YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING:

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--WE HAVE INFORMED THE ISRAELIS THAT WE EXPECT THEM TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON AND WE ARE PRESENTLY IN URGENT CONSULTATION WITH THEM TO ACHIEVE THIS.

--HE ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO REMAIN IN LEBANON BUT THEY INSIST THAT THEIR WITHDRAWAL MUST BE FOLLOWED BY ARRANGEMENTS WHICH PUT AN END TO ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAEL FROM ACROSS THE BORDER.

--WE ARE CONSIDERING, AMONG OTHER POSSIBILITIES, A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM AND TO SUPPORT AND ASSIST THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IN RESTORING ITS AUTHORITY AND CONTROL IN THE SOUTH. WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SUCH A FORCE WOULD WITHDRAW AS SOON AS THE LEBANESE ARMY IS AGAIN CAPABLE OF ASSUMING SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY IN THE SOUTH.

--WE ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN DISCUSSIONS AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS. WE HOPE TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH JORDAN AND WORK TOGETHER TO HELP RESTORE SECURITY AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

4. FYI: AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN, FOREGOING DOES NOT MENTION OR ALLUDE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY HUSSEIN TO THE U.S. OUR FEELING IS THAT THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE KING TO DECIDE. SINCE HUSSEIN DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION IN HIS MESSAGE OF MARCH 14, AND HAS STAYED AWAY FROM IT IN OTHER CONTACTS, BELIEVE MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE IS FOR PRESIDENT TO DO LIKEWISE IN HIS RESPONSE. END FYI. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, KING, TEXT, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, PEACE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE069649
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DAKORN/HLK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840176-1260, N780003-0552
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780352/aaaabsho.tel
Line Count: 205
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 75aa7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 78 AMMAN 2453
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3285643
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO KING HUSSEIN
TAGS: PPDC, MOPS, PBOR, US, JO, XF, (CARTER, JIMMY), (HUSAYN)
To: AMMAN
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75aa7cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014